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Local, A3

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Gov: Stay home

Whitmer pulls trigger on emergency order, through April 13, restricting movement for some

By CRAIG MAUGER, BETH LEBLANC and MELISSA NANN BURKE
The Detroit News (TNS)

LANSING — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued Monday a "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order requiring Michigan businesses to suspend in-person operations from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday through April 13 to help stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

WHITMER

Exemptions to the order include operations that are part of the "critical infrastructure workforce" or those needed for "minimal basic operations." Schools also will remain closed through April 13.

Michigan residents are ordered to stay in their homes unless they're "critical infrastructure workers." People can still leave for outdoor activities, to care for family members, perform necessary government activities and obtain necessary supplies such as groceries or medicine.

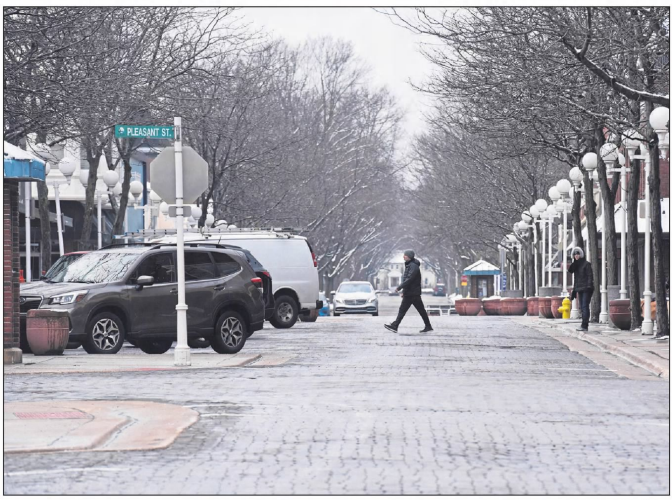
The order comes as the state confirmed an almost 200-case jump in confirmed positive COVID-19 tests, putting the total at 1,232. Fifteen people have died in Michigan after testing positive for the virus, Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun said.

"The goal here is simple: Stay home. Stay safe. Save lives," Whitmer said during a Monday live-streamed press event. "This will be temporary. This intervention is important to buy time so we can create surge capacity in our

See ORDER, page A10

Ben Sanders / HP Staff

Benton Harbor's Carlos Johnson holds the Mr. Basketball trophy after winning the award on Monday.



Don Campbell / HP staff

An empty downtown St. Joseph is pictured Monday afternoon. A number of downtown businesses are expected to close for the next three weeks, including Lazy Ballerina Winery, though online sales continue for the business.

Johnson named Mr. Basketball

Benton Harbor star is school's third winner of prestigious award

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

SOUTHFIELD — Benton Harbor's Carlos Johnson was an all-state basketball star as a freshman and a state championship game hero as a sophomore. As a senior, the player known as "Scooby" is the best in Michigan.

Johnson was named Michigan's Mr. Basketball on Monday. The award is given by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan and the Detroit Free Press to the top senior boys high school basketball player in the state.

"I was kind of speechless for a few seconds," Johnson said upon being informed of his award. "You only get one opportunity to win, so I was just blessed with the opportunity to win."

Johnson is the 40th recipient of the award, and the third from Benton Harbor, joining Wilson Chandler (2005) and Anthony "Pig" Miller (1990).

Chandler tweeted his congratulations to Johnson, saying "Congratulations bro! Helluva high school career. Mr. Basketball was just the icing on the cake."

"There's a lot of people who came from the area that didn't get a chance to be Mr. Basketball," Johnson said. "I'm just honored and blessed to be one of the three names."

"It's big for the city, it's big for the community," Benton Harbor coach Corey Sterling said. "Benton Harbor's a basketball city. Everybody back home is very excited, just like when we won the state championship. Carlos represents the city of Benton Harbor and the west side of the state.

"Pig Miller and Wilson Chandler, Carlos looks up to those guys and they're always mentoring him and giving him advice. I just think it's great for Benton Harbor to have three Mr. Basketballs."

Johnson finished first in the voting with 2,949 points, ahead of Flint Beecher's Jalen Terry (2,760). Lorne Bowman of Orchard Lake St. Mary's was third with 2,312.

Johnson's biggest on-court moment remains the 2018 Class

See AWARD, page A10

Businesses adapt in wake of changing rules

Retail stores expected to take biggest hit from order

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writers

Southwest Michigan business owners and employees are seeking answers after the state issued a stay-at-home executive order Monday meant to fight the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. today, for at least the next three weeks, individuals may only leave their home or place of residence under very limited circumstances. The order is set to end at 11:59 p.m. on April 13.

Among the businesses that will remain open under the executive order includes grocery stores, gas stations, health care facilities, banks or credit unions, liquor stores, hardware stores, pharmacies, laundromats, auto shops, utilities and chemistry companies.

The biggest sector to be affected by Monday's stay-at-home executive order is the retail industry. Any retailers selling non-food items that have not already closed are expected to do so.

Schools, bars and restaurants were given an extended period of time in which they would remain closed. Bars and restaurants are expected to remain open for takeout orders only. State officials are urging residents to have food delivered as opposed to picking it up.

Some businesses have gotten creative through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lakeside Liquor in Stevensville

See BUSINESSES, page A10

Area police react to governor's stay-at-home order

Enforcement, officials acknowledge, will be very challenging

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

Although leaving one's home for a non-essential reason is now illegal in Michigan as COVID-19 continues to spread, area police say it will be tough to enforce and they are asking people to be responsible and voluntarily adhere to the "shelter at home" mandate.

On Monday, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-21 that requires all state residents to suspend unnecessary activities and, unless going out is necessary to sustain or protect life, residents are ordered to stay at home until April 13.

"We're hoping the majority will follow the order. It's going to be awfully hard to enforce," said Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey.

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic said law enforcement can issue a 93-misdemeanor citation for violating the order.

Further, police have the authority to order people to comply with the mandate, and refusal to do so may become a two-year felony for resisting and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

Bailey said police would prefer that people voluntarily comply with the executive order, but his deputies will take action if needed to protect the health and safety of the community.

"We do have the right to stop people who are out driving, and we might ask them to prove they need to go somewhere," the sheriff said.

He acknowledged, however, that trying to determine the reason a person is out driving will be difficult because there are a number of allowable reasons to be out, such as going to a grocery story.

"We'll just have to talk to them, and determine what the truth is," Bailey said.

Coloma Township Police Chief Wes Smigielski agreed the mandate will be tough to enforce.

"We are hoping people will police themselves on this. We don't have the manpower to stop every car that's out there," he said. "Overall we have a great area here, and I don't see people being a detriment (to health and safety) on purpose," he said.

People are allowed, even encouraged, to go outside for exercise, to walk their dogs or even just to get fresh air, but Smigielski said social distancing should be practiced and large crowds will not be allowed to gather, even outside.

Benton Harbor Public Safety Director Dan McGinnis said Monday his department was still

See POLICE, page A10

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather
High 48 Low 38

6 50645 49085 0

Back to school? Court considers regular education for judges

LANSING (AP) — The Michigan Supreme Court is seeking public comment on a proposal to require annual education courses for judges.

The court says the goal is to ensure proficiency about current law, integrity on the bench and administrative skills. Judges would be required to fulfill a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education each year.

The program would be supervised by a Judicial Education Board with judges from different courts.

Justice Richard Bernstein said ongoing education is a good goal. But he said he's concerned that a mandatory program would turn into a hardship for an "already burdened judiciary."

"We should respect the autonomy of individual judicial officers to choose for themselves; the government should not seek to intervene in these individual decisions," Bernstein said.

Justice Stephen Markman supports the effort to get public comment. But he raised many questions, including how education programs would be "neutral and even-handed in their influence upon substantive judicial perspectives."

Jail escapee arrested in trailer in northern Michigan

ATLANTA (AP) — Police have captured a man who escaped from a county jail in northern Michigan.

Jeffrey Markby, 34, was found Monday morning in a travel trailer behind a home in Atlanta, Michigan, according to the Montmorency County sheriff's office.

He surrendered without a struggle.

A motorist saw Markby running Sunday evening from jail property into a nearby cemetery, the sheriff's office said.

Markby covered razor wire on a fence during the escape and was cut. He was being treated Monday at a hospital for his injuries and for exposure to the elements.

"At this time, all law enforcement personnel are still investigating this incident to determine appropriate charges as well as determine if any other individuals were involved in the escape," the sheriff's office said in a release.

Markby had been jailed on possession of a controlled substance.

LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan

Poker Lotto
4C-6C-2D-9H-9S
Midday Daily 3
8-4-2
Midday Daily 4
7-4-6-8
Daily 3
8-2-7
Daily 4
5-5-7-0
Fantasy 5
18-25-30-35-37
Estimated jackpot
$322,000
Keno
04-09-10-11-16-18-25-28-30-34-39-40-44-50-51-52-63-64-71-72-76-77
Mega Millions jackpot
$101 million
Powerball jackpot
$150 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana

XCash 5
10-25-29-34-36
Estimated jackpot
$80,000
Cash4Life
01-34-41-43-53, Cash Ball: 2
Quick Draw Midday
08-14-24-25-30-35-36-37-41-47-56-57-59-66-70-71-74-75-77-79, BE: 70
Daily Three-Midday
1-8-5, SB: 1
Daily Three-Evening
6-0-9, SB: 6
Daily Four-Midday
7-0-5-2, SB: 1
Daily Four-Evening
6-2-8-1, SB: 6
Quick Draw Evening
09-11-15-21-28-30-40-43-48-49-54-55-57-58-59-68-70-75-78-79, BE: 28

Illinois

LuckyDay Lotto Midday
06-19-28-41-44
Pick Three-Midday
3-5-4, Fireball: 0
Pick Three-Evening
8-9-2, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Midday
8-9-8-8, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
5-1-7-2, Fireball: 1
Lucky Day Lotto
16-18-27-33-44

– *The Associated Press*

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Grocery stores slammed after Whitmer issued order

By LAUREN GIBBONS and GUS BURNS
mlive.com

The parking lot at Jack's Fruit and Meat Market on Bay Road in Saginaw Township was nearly filled to capacity within hours of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issuing a "stay-at-home" order.

"Asparagus 99 cents," said the sign out front. "Jack's is exempt (from order). We remain open to serve. Fully stocked with meat. New hours, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m."

"Good luck in there," a woman wearing a face mask and Nike "Just-do-it" sweatpants said to entering shoppers as she rolled a mostly full cart toward her car.

Around the state, grocery stores continue to face big crowds and high demand on basic necessities. In many stores, products like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, meat and pantry staples are running out quicker than they can be restocked.

With a new round of restrictions requiring residents to stay home unless their work is deemed essential, that trend could continue.

Starting 12:01 a.m. today, Michigan residents and businesses were subject to a stay-at-home order through April 13, with violations subject to a misdemeanor charge. There are exceptions to that rule, however, including operating or shopping at a grocery store.

Since the first case of coronavirus was detected in Michigan Whitmer has placed an emphasis on allowing for consumer access to goods, including by taking away seasonal truck weight restrictions to get more products delivered to stores.

Many Michigan stores are shifting hours to keep the shelves stocked and are taking extra cleaning precautions.

Meegan Holland, Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the Michigan Retailers Association, said many grocers deemed essential under the governor's latest executive order still have a lot of questions, like whether their employees need proof in the event they're stopped on the way to or from work.

What shoppers can expect at their local grocery stores largely depends on what stores are getting on any given day to replenish stocks, she said.

"Those stores are doing their best to stay clean and restock shelves," Holland said. "I'm sure they're slammed."

Sierra Cornett and Andrew Guriel stopped by a Meijer store in East Lansing shortly after the new executive order was announced Monday – it was their second grocery store trip of the day as they sought out the supplies they needed.

Cornett said they understand the dangers of COVID-19 and why the governor is advising people to stay home, noting she recently had to come home early from a study abroad program in Spain as the pandemic worsened. She said she's hopeful panic buying doesn't interfere with the basic needs of residents as the disease continues to spread.

For Macomb Township residents Dan and Heather Schnau, the uncertainty of being able to find what they need at the grocery store to feed themselves and their three young children – all of whom are now home due to school closures – has added to their challenges.

"It's been very chaotic... it's hard keeping food on the table," Dan Schnau said. "Flour, beef, things we need to feed our family – they're all empty in the grocery stores."

A flurry of close-proximity activity surrounded the meant counter at Jack's in Saginaw Township where fresh red meat filled bright display cases.

Behind the white-apron-wearing meat workers were two flat-screen TVs warning: "While waiting at the meat counter, please spread out and try to maintain a 6-foot distance from other shoppers."

Most of the 20-plus people in line appeared to be disregarding the plea, standing closer to three feet apart or less on average.

Multiple shoppers said they were prompted to stock up on their grocery needs, including fresh produce, eggs and meat, after hearing Whitmer's stay-at-home order Monday.

"We're going to follow what she said and stay home," said 51-year-old Jim Houser of Carrollton who was shopping with his wife. "As long as it doesn't go past a month, two months we'll be fine.

"I think it will probably blow over pretty quick if people just stay home."

Houser's wife, who has an immunity deficiency said she stood away from the crowds inside the store and texted her husband the products she wanted to buy.

"It's busy," she said. "The meat counter is just packed with people. Nobody is maintaining any distance at all even though the signs are up there saying to."

Jodie Jones, 37, of Saginaw Township said she was picking up some last-minute items before preparing to comply with the governor's three-week stay-at-home order.

"I just want to limit the amount that I need to go out," Jones said. "It's hard to be six feet."

"How well people listen" will determine if the state or federal government decide to take more action limiting public mobility and commerce, she said.

Jennifer Sanders, 58, of Bridgeport, who changes out of her clothes each time she returns home after being in public, worries business closures in other states could impact grocery supplies in Michigan, specifically regarding fresh meat and produce.

She's concerned that the order isn't enough.

"That's what I don't understand," Sanders said. "How are they going to control it? They still have the stores open and gas stations open … Even when you go into a grocery store to shop, you're still close to people."

Thirteen-year-old Brazil Payton, who suffers from asthma, wore a face mask when she visited the Jack's Fruit and Meat Market with her mother, 53-year-old Nikki Payton, for "last-minute meat."

"People aren't taking it serious," said Nikki Payton, who's restricted another adult daughter and granddaughter from visiting their Bridgeport home

"If I go in the hospital, what are my kids going to do," she said. "She's one of the ones running around not taking it seriously."

Nikki Payton said she's concerned for "everybody," including employees of grocery stores that are allowed to remain open during the stay-at-home order.

"I feel bad," she said. "Because you know how much stuff they're dealing with? Forget about it … They're touching all this merchandise … You've got to feel for them. I commend everybody that's out here."

Stock worker Daniel Dunbar said management is willing to work with employees who feel uncomfortable working in this climate.

"The only thing that bothers me is people who come out when they are sick," he said. "I've heard other workers ask why we haven't closed yet.

"I understand where they are coming from because there is a lot going on but you have to understand that we're like a main source where people can get food, toilet paper tissue and water and all that stuff."

DNR closes campgrounds and overnight lodging, but state parks remain open

By EMILY BINGHAM
mlive.com

LANSING — In response to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home executive order issued Monday, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced it will close state park campgrounds, overnight lodging facilities and shelters through at least April 13.

Camping reservations already made for dates between March 23 and April 13 will automatically be canceled, the DNR said in a statement released Monday evening. Reservation holders will receive full refunds, without any cancellation fees, and will be notified by email once the cancellations and refunds are processed.

Reservation holders with questions can call the DNR reservation line at 800-447-2757.

Meanwhile, state parks, recreation areas and trails will remain open to give people the opportunity to spend time outdoors and pursue healthy physical activities like walking, hiking, running and biking.

DNR Director Dan Eichinger said that Michigan state parks and recreation areas remaining open for these activities is dependent on people continuing to follow public health practices like social distancing, even when outdoors.

"Gov. Whitmer's executive order requires people to follow the CDC guidelines and stay at least six feet away from other people when outside of their own households, to the greatest extent possible," Eichinger said in the release.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Video released of SJHS altercation between student, adult

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

GLISSON

ST. JOSEPH — The surveillance video of the Feb. 20 altercation between a Coloma man and a St. Joseph High School senior at the high school shows that the physical part of the confrontation lasted a little over a minute.

The video and a two-page report done by school administrators was obtained from St. Joseph Public Schools through a Freedom of Information Act request.

A copy of the 10-page police report was obtained from the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office through a separate FOIA request.

The preliminary hearing for Chris Glisson, the man accused of attacking 18-year-old Steve Meridy Jr., was adjourned until further notice last week because of restrictions ordered by the Michigan Supreme Court due to COVID-19.

Glisson, 51, is out on bond. The former Boys & Girls Club employee is charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm, a 10-year felony. On March 13, he declined a plea offer of aggravated assault, a one-year misdemeanor.

The 3:03 minute video begins with Glisson and Meridy talking in the high school's student center, with a woman watching and two other people blurred out. At the 27-second mark, Glisson steps closer to Meridy and appears to put his hands up to the student's neck. They break free briefly before it appears at the 35-second mark that Glisson puts his hands up to Meridy's neck and shoves him onto a table.

The two end up standing face-to-face, holding each other's hands to their sides. The school's public safety officer arrives at 1:24 mark and they break apart at 1:37 mark.

The rest of the video shows them talking, with Meridy calling someone on his cell phone, before the three walk up the steps.

The police report shows that Meridy and Glisson's daughter, who also attends St. Joseph High School, had dated and recently broke up. In the report, Meridy said they were talking because Glisson's daughter wanted him to smooth things over with her dad. He said that when Glisson had his hands around his throat, his circulation was cut off and he couldn't breath. He said Glisson started squeezing his neck even harder after pinning him to the table.

He told the officer that he thought Glisson's intent was to kill him.

Once they stood back up, Meridy said in the report that Glisson started praying.

Meridy told police that his back and neck hurt, along with one of his legs, which he had previously injured. He said he had trouble swallowing for two days after the incident.

During the week after the incident, Meridy reported to police that he had three nose bleeds, high blood pressure and a lot of anxiety.

The interview with Glisson was blacked out in the copy of the police report given to The HP.

Video available online

The video can be viewed on The Herald-Palladium's Facebook page and website (https://bit.ly/33HE6rZ)

Much of the two-page report from the school district is also redacted. It quotes Glisson as saying he was trying to control Meridy and not hurt him.

The incident happened around 3:30 p.m. Glisson was the site coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club at the high school. He was fired shortly after the incident.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

SPRING STROLL IN THE SNOW

Don Campbell / HP staff

A man strolls among snow-covered trees along the bluff in downtown St. Joseph Monday morning, after a spring snowstorm briefly hit Southwest Michigan.

The show went on with no one in audience

But several Broadway folks took notice

By BECKY KARK
For the Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — You never know who's watching.

Cast members of South Haven High School's production of "Shrek the Musical" found that out earlier this month when the show's writer and several well-known actors tweeted how much they enjoyed watching clips of the performance, online.

The buzz came about when students were told two hours before their opening night performance, on March 13, that they'd have to play to an empty house due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordering all schools to close until at least April 5 because of the coronavirus pandemic

"Needless to say the students, especially our senior cast members, as well as my co-director Katie Hillyard and I, were absolutely devastated," said Director Erin O'Neil.

But, as the old theater saying goes, "the show must go on."

Students went ahead and donned their costumes and performed the whimsical, humorous musical as if they were playing to a full house.

"They were performing to an empty auditorium, but had such heart and depth in that moment – it was inspiring," O'Neil said.

Tony-award winning Broadway actress Laura Benanti thought so as well.

When high schools throughout the country began to cancel their theater productions because of the pandemic, Benanti turned to Instagram, asking school performers to send clips of themselves singing.

In a video message, she stated, "I know that a lot of high schools were going to have their musicals and those musicals got canceled. And that is a bummer because I know for so many of us – I know for me – my high school musical was a lifesaver. So if you would like to sing a song that you are not going to get to sing now, and tag me, I want to see you. I want to hear it."

O'Neil saw the post and decided to send Benanti a video clip of the cast at a tech rehearsal singing the show's final song, "This is My Story."

Benanti was impressed with the performance, responding online with a string of emojis. She even took the time to send the video to David Lindsay-Abaire, who wrote the script and lyrics for "Shrek the Musical."

After watching the performance of "This is My Story," he tweeted to O'Neil saying, "Amazing, even when their sweet hearts were broken. Thank you for supporting the love of theater. And thanks to all of those amazing kids. I'm sorry the show was canceled."

If that weren't enough, Broadway actor Nic Walker ("Hamilton" and "Ain't too Proud") even shout out kind words to the Shrek cast and crew from South Haven.

His video message came about when a week before opening night, O'Neil tweeted whether any Broadway actors would be interested in sending a pep talk for the students to view opening night.

"Mr. Walker responded to me the following Monday asking if we were able to perform," O'Neil said. "When he found out we had to cancel he sent a personalized, heartfelt video message to my cast, crew, and pit musicians. The kids couldn't believe it. They were over the moon to have words of encouragement from such a talented stage actor."

In his video message, Walker said, "I'm so sorry. I can't imagine how hard you guys worked. The amount of work it takes to put on that show is so much. And the fact you guys even got to that point is amazing."

"Shrek the Musical" is one of the more difficult plays South Haven's drama department has staged, according to O'Neil.

"Shrek' is actually a difficult production to put on," she said. "Every member of the cast is vital and used in a multitude of ways. There were some students that were playing three or more roles. For example, senior Emilia Soto was Mama Ogre, Dragon and one of the Three Blind Mice. There are also far more dance numbers in this show than in previous productions. The opening of act two even features tap dancing. The kids worked incredibly hard to get all of the music and choreography ready."

O'Neil is hoping that when schools re-open, students can perform the musical in front of a live audience.

"Many of the licensing companies are being very flexible in working with directors to make all of our shows possible at a future date," she said. "Once we have a better idea as to when we will be able to get back together, we will actively work with administration to find a workable date."

IN BRIEF

Antiques on the Bluff pushed back

ST. JOSEPH — Due to the latest developments regarding the coronavirus, the first Antiques on the Bluff show of the year has been canceled.

The first show was scheduled for May 3.

"The health of our visitors, residents and members is critical to St. Joe Today," said Amy Zapal, executive director at St. Joseph Today. "This decision was not made lightly. While we will continue to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19, the rest of the Antiques on the Bluff season will happen as planned."

The 2020 Antiques on the Bluff season is now set to start on June 7.

Benton Harbor woman struck by train, injured

BATTLE CREEK — A 73-year-old woman was seriously injured Monday afternoon when she was hit by a freight train.

The incident was reported around 3 p.m. Monday, near the 15000 block of Fort Custer Drive, which is about eight miles west of Battle Creek.

Kalamazoo County sheriff's deputies say the Benton Harbor woman, who was not identified, had fallen on the rail road tracks when she was struck by the train.

She was transported to Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo with serious injuries.

– *Mlive*

Some police depts. checking in on kids alone at home

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

Some children who are home alone from school while their parents work are enjoying special visitors who want to help keep them safe.

At least four area police agencies have announced that, at the request of a parent, an officer will stop by and check on a child or children who live within their coverage area.

"It's received great reception so far," said Coloma Township Police Chief Wes Smigielski.

His department, along with Dowagiac police and police in Hartford and Bangor, have announced the availability of the welfare checks.

"I have been checking on a lot of kids at the request of the school. It has been funny to see people's faces when they realize a police officer is literally just stopping by to say hello," said Patrolman Dan Stuglik, Coloma's school resource officer.

"It's especially true with adults that are home when I visit. The kids are used to me since I eat lunch with them and sit by them in art class, but parents usually relate my face to a traffic stop or something less pleasant. I've enjoyed the smiles," he said.

Smigielski said parents or guardians who would like an occasional welfare check on their children should call the local police department or their child's school. He said school officials are working with police to identify possible at-risk kids who should be checked on.

In Dowagiac, police will check on children who live within the city limits who are forced to be home alone while their parents work.

Requests can be sent to publicsafetydirector@dowagiac.org, or by direct message to the department's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/DowagiacPD, or by calling 782-9743.

Dowagiac Director of Public Safety Steven Grinnewald said in a news release announcing the visits that his department got the idea from Bangor Police Department.

Grinnewald said people requesting a visit should include the name and age of each child at the residence, the address and parent's name and contact information.

He and Smigielski said children should never open their doors to a stranger.

"Kids should make sure it's us before opening the door," Smigielski said. "Our officer will be in uniform and a marked police car will be outside within view. If there's a knock at the door and you don't see a marked squad car, don't open the door."

He said as an added precaution, the police officer will know the name of the child's mother, father or guardian.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, twitter@hpswidwa

Number of COVID-19 cases in Berrien County listed at 5

Updated totals expected each morning

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

The number of cases of COVID-19 rose to five Monday in Berrien County.

There are still no confirmed cases in Van Buren or Cass counties as of Monday evening.

The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) reported in a news release that the two cases reported Sunday, and the new case Monday, were all adult men over the age of 60.

The first four cases are self-isolating in their homes to recover from their symptoms.

The fifth case is recovering at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Health department officials said they are communicating directly with all people who had close contact with the people who have tested positive, but that people should assume that there is a possibility the virus may be present when they are in public places in the community.

"Everyone should be taking all recommended prevention measures by practicing social distancing and heeding executive orders that are in place," Nicki Britten, health officer for the BCHD, said in the news release. "Our collective goal remains to slow the spread of cases as much as possible."

BCHD spokeswoman Gillian Conrad said Monday evening that the health department will give daily count updates via its website, www.bchdmi.org, social media and hotline, 1-800-815-5485.

She said, for now, local count updates are expected in the morning, while the state will update its figures at 2 p.m.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING MAR. 24

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7) (10) (41) (57)	Wheel of Fortune	The Conners (N)	Bless This M.	mixed-ish (N)	black-ish (N)	For Life "Burner" (N)	
CBS (2) (3) (22)	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Schooled" (N) (DVS)		FBI Jess LaCroix and his team help OA. (N)		FBI: Most Wanted "Reveille" (N)	
NBC (5) (8) (16)	NBC5 News	Ellen's Game of Games (N)		This Is Us "Strangers: Part Two"		:01 Council of Dads "Pilot"	
FOX (17) (22) (28) (32)	Modern Family	The Resident "Support System" (N)		Empire "I Am Who I Am" (N)		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N)	
PBS (34)	Steves' Europe	East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story Former residents of public housing.				Frontline "NRA Under Fire" (N)	
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	The Flash "A Girl Named Sue"		DC's Legends of Tomorrow		News	Seinfeld
MNT (39)	Family Feud	Chicago P.D. "If We Were Normal"		Chicago P.D. "Night in Chicago"		Chicago P.D. "Ties That Bind"	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	The Flash "A Girl Named Sue"		DC's Legends of Tomorrow		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Something to Prove"		Highway to Heaven		The List (N)	Celebrity Page (N)
WGN (9)	News	black-ish	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L)	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 "Last Shift"		The First 48: My First Homicide (N)		:02 The First 48: My First Homicide (N)	
AMC	:00 ★★★ The Matrix ('99, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne.					★★★ The Matrix Reloaded ('03)	
BET	Diary of a Mad Black Woman			★★ Meet the Browns ('06)			
Big Ten	BTN in 60	BTN Basketball in 60		BTN Basketball in 60		BTN Basketball in 60	
Bravo	Vanderpump Rul	Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules (N)		Family Karma "A Game of Telephone"	
Cartoon	Apple	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	6:25 Bandidas	★★ Ocean's 8 ('18, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett.				9:55 ★★★ Widows ('18)	
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	Shark	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit (N)	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	To Be Announced	
Discovery	:00 Moonshiners	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N)		Moonshiners "Shiner Showdown" Distillers compete to make brandy. (N)			
Disney	Bunk'd	Sydney	Coop	Gabby	Just Roll	Bunk'd	Raven
DIY	Alaska	Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid	
E!	6:30 Fifty Shades of Grey			★★ Fifty Shades of Grey ('15)			
ESPN	:00 O.J.: Made in America			O.J.: Made in America (Part 3 of 5)			
ESPN2	:00 E:60	UFC Main Event (N)		Johnsonville ACL Cornhole Championships			
ESPNC	Baseball	MLB Baseball				MLB Baseball	
Food	Chopped	Chopped		Chopped (N)		Supermarket	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	NHL Hockey: Stars at Red Wings				Red Wings Live		Wingspan
Freefrm	6:00 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial ('82)			★★★ Guardians of the Galaxy ('14, Science Fiction) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista.			
FX	:00 ★★ Transformers: The Last Knight (17) Mark Wahlberg. The war between Transformers and humans threatens Earth.						Transformers
Golf	Skill	PGA Tour Golf From Austin, Texas.					
Hallmark	Easter Under	Royal Matchmaker ('18, Romance) Bethany Joy Lenz, Will Kemp.				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	:40 ★★ Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw ('19) Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham.					Women of Troy	
History	Oak Is	Digging Deeper		Curse-Island		Project Blue Book	
HGTV	Hunters	Love It or List It (N)		Unsella	Unsella	Maine Cabin Masters	
Learning	Fabulous	My Big Fat Fabulous Life				Little People, World	
Lifetime	Grey's Anatomy	★★ Magic Mike XXL ('15) Channing Tatum, Matt Bomer. Former stripper Mike Lane comes out of retirement.					
MSNBC	Decision	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Teen OG	Teen Mom OG		Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	White	To Be Announced					
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Total Access		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Maze	Dylan	All That	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NGEO	PortPro	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero	
Oxygen	:00 Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D. (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "Emotional Proximity"		Chicago P.D. "Remember the Devil"	
Parmt	Grown Ups ('10, Comedy) Adam Sandler.					Ink Master (N)	
Showtime	:00 Homeland	★★ Poms ('19) Diane Keaton, Jacki Weaver,			Hampstead ('17) Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson,		
Starz	:15 ★★★ Beirut ('18) Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike.			:07 Outlander "Better to Marry Than Burn"		:12 ★★ Angels & Demons ('09)	
STZENC	5:54 Slap Shot	★★★ A Fistful of Dollars ('64) Clint Eastwood.				:43 ★★★ For a Few Dollars More ('65) Clint Eastwood.	
SyFy	Star Trek Beyond	★★★ Zombieland ('09, Comedy) Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg.				★★ The Fast and the Furious ('01)	
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Miracle Workers
TCM	Ene-my-People	Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché ('18, Documentary) (P).				:15 The Ocean Waif ('16)	
TMC	Keeps Alive	★★★ Sense and Sensibility ('95, Comedy-Drama) Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman.					Little Women
TNT	★★ The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies					:15 Taken 2	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures (N)				Portals to Hell (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	One Day	Two Men	Two Men
USA	Law & Order: SVU	The Biggest Loser (N) (DVS)		The Biggest Loser "Final Four" (N)		:01 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With

Couple's views on one issue diverge and threaten future

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After an abusive relationship ended 14 years ago, I stayed single and raised my small son to adulthood. I dated here and there, but never found anyone I had serious feelings for who also felt the same way about me until seven months ago.

My feelings for my boyfriend are strong, and it's mutual. He is giving, kind, caring, hardworking and protective. We are very much in love. He tells me he feels like he can be himself around me, something he has never had before. I've never had anyone care so much about my well-being.

We talk about everything and differ on only one point so far. I'm in education and an LGBTQ ally. He feels strongly that nature dictates that only a man and a woman belong together, and he says he hates gay people. (We both grew up in very small, conservative communities.)

Now that my son is older, I plan to use my experiences to be a stronger voice on education issues regarding tolerance and improving learning outcomes for all by instilling conflict resolution principles in my educational practices. I'm not changing my view on this, but I want to continue for us to love and support each other.

Should I tell my boyfriend I understand where he's coming from based upon where and how we were raised? Do you think down the road our basic principles will drive us apart? We have been talking about buying a house in the country together, although neither of us has intentions of marriage anytime soon. – Hesitating In Illinois

DEAR HESITATING: You should absolutely talk to your boyfriend about your plan to become an outspoken LGBTQ ally and more active in your profession. When you become more visible, do you plan to separate your career and your personal life? It appears you are willing (and able) to respect him, and understand why he feels the way he does. But is he willing to do the same for you, and will his conservative convictions negatively affect how you plan to live your life?

It is VERY important that this issue be resolved BEFORE investing in real estate with him – as well as any more precious time. A professional mediator may be able to help with the conversation if you can't do this by yourselves.

DEAR ABBY: My two grandchildren, 12 and 16, used to spend a lot of time with my husband and me, staying overnight, going on trips, etc. As they have gotten older, I recognize that they will naturally want to spend less time with us old folks.

My problem is, when I send them texts to invite them for lunch or out somewhere for the day, they don't respond or just respond with an IDK (I don't know). My question: Should I ask again to get an answer before the scheduled lunch or trip, or should I just forget it and assume they don't want to be involved with us? – Sad Memaw In Florida

DEAR SAD: You have asked an intelligent question, but you are asking the wrong person. The people you should be asking are your grandchildren, and when you do, it should be face-to-face.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Friends froze me out because I'm too attractive

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: I've been friends with "Kelly," "Emily" and "Dara" since college, about seven years. We have always gone out to bars and clubs and had a lot of fun together – until recently. Lately, through social media, I can see that Emily and Dara and sometimes all three go out without me. In fact, the only time we all go out together is when I set it up. Since I'm closer to Kelly, I asked her why Emily and Dara were freezing me out. She explained they're sick and tired of the attention I get from men when we all go out as a group. Kelly doesn't care because she's in a committed relationship. They say they want a chance to meet guys and having me there only makes them feel like "second choice, if the men even notice them at all." I've really stepped up my fitness routine and as a result I wear much more close-fit styles, which men do like. My friends wear very casual, comfortable clothing. They have their own style and that's fine; I don't judge them for not doing things the same as I do. But now I feel like I'm losing my friends because of this. Also, we don't always go out with the intent to meet men, so why cut me out? What can I do? – Cut Out

CUT OUT: Actually, you're losing your friends because they've chosen a crappy, transactional way to treat other people.

I could argue that Kelly is the worst of them for going along with the superficial exclusion even though she "doesn't care."

And I might argue that all day if it means I run out of time and don't have to address your comments on clothing styles, because, ew.

I don't know. I'm sure it's all accurate, but "I'm hot and they're not" isn't the kind of accuracy that endears people to their less romantically successful friends.

It all just brings me back around to where I always end up: Fun is fun, but connection is worth whatever effort and patience it takes. Are these friends looking down on you? Are you looking down on them? Is there anything worth salvaging here? If so, then say your piece about feeling left out and see where that takes you.

RE: HOT FRIEND: I have a hot friend I stopped going certain places with because I could never spend an evening dancing or talking with her. I was always stuck with the wingman or her hangers-on. I came home every evening feeling like dog poop. Not because I envied her or had any desire to flirt with men at clubs, but because I had spent the whole evening talking to men who made it quite clear talking to me was an unpleasant chore. I still go out drinking and dancing with other equally pretty women all the time. They don't let me get crowded out when men notice them. – Crowded Out

RE: HOT FRIEND: Not helpful or the point, but this does remind me of my favorite scene from "When Harry Met Sally." I hope everyone who wants to find their good melon does (including me!). – Anonymous

ANONYMOUS: You had me at, "Not helpful or the point." Thanks!

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

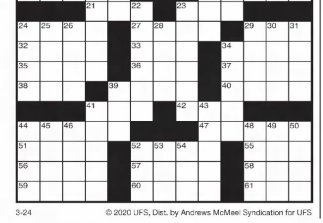
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 On the — vive
4 Big hairdo
8 Intuit, in sci-fi slang
12 "Waterfalls" group
13 Victuals
14 Auto part
15 Sign a contract
16 Asian royalty
17 Butter substitute
18 Check endorser
20 Medieval adventure
21 Cask
23 "Alice" diner owner
24 South Seas getaway
27 Matured
29 Force open
32 Pretty soon
33 Large vase
34 Airport exit
35 Antler bearer
36 Traipse about
37 Oil carlet
38 Big amount
39 Grant
40 Poison ivy symptom
41 Airline to Stockholm
42 Kennel user
44 Cooked in oil
47 Lettuce buys
50 Super-man's mother
52 Auel heroine
55 Woolly animal
56 Spoken
57 Tea leaves reader
58 Virus infection
59 Writes
60 Leg joint
61 Perch

DOWN
1 Ear swab (hyph.)
2 Bone below the elbow
3 Gross
4 Achieve harmony
5 Friar's title
6 Operate
7 "Shogun" apparel
8 Horror flick extra
9 Butler, to Gable
10 Blast furnace inputs
11 Snarl
19 Making do
20 Proof ender
22 Dials
23 Healed, as a bone
24 In a jiffy
25 Not out of
26 Baez or Rivers
28 Diploma possessor
29 Family man
30 Country addrs.
31 Grossed
34 Chasm
39 Heel
41 Water-proofs
43 Windy City airport
44 Dud
45 Unusual
46 Persia, now
48 Pet shop sounds
49 Surrealist painter
50 Chimney dirt
52 Invite
53 Desire
54 Harper or Stan

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	N	D		U	T	E		Z	O	O
M	O	I		S	N	A	R	L		O	V	A
U	T	A		A	S	T	R	O	N	E	T	
	A	Z	A	L	E	A		T	E	E	N	S
		W	A	R		Q	U	O				
S	H	R	E	D		F	U	S	S	I	E	R
H	O	E	D		G	O	A		N	R	A	
A	P	E		A	N	Y		R	I	N	G	
W	I	L	D	E	S	T		M	O	T	E	S
		A	L	P		M	O	A				
G	L	A	N	D		T	A	W	D	R	Y	
N	O	D	E	R	S		S	E	E	O	N	
U	S	A		R	U	M	O	R		A	D	E
S	T	Y		T	E	N		D	A	B		



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IRROG

OOTRB

OTREES

SOMCTA

MARTHA'S MARKET
For Sale
For Sale
With a little work, we'll be up and running.
I used to come here as a kid for candy.
THEY BOUGHT THE RUN-DOWN CORNER MARKET AND PLANNED TO ---

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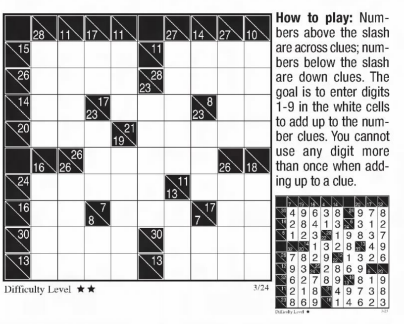
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MANLY HABIT SPLICE HAIRDO
Answer: With fewer and fewer customers, business at the indoor shopping center was — "DIS-MALL"

KAKURO



How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Difficulty Level ★★

3/24

4	9	6	3	8	5	7	9	7	8
9	2	8	4	1	3	5	3	1	2
3	1	2	3	5	1	9	8	3	7
5	7	8	2	9	6	1	3	2	6
1	9	3	5	2	8	6	9	5	4
6	2	7	8	9	4	3	8	1	9
2	1	8	6	4	9	7	3	8	
8	6	9	7	1	4	6	2	3	

BRIDGE

At a dinner in New York, Mark Twain said, "A verb has a hard time enough of it in this world when it's all together. It's downright inhuman to split it up." To what was he referring?

Probably, like me, you thought it was the split infinitive. Some writers are happy to boldly split the infinitive, where others refuse to go. But actually Twain was talking about German. He claimed that one part of the verb is put down here, one part over yonder, and German is just shoveled in between!

On today's deal, North-South bid to six clubs. After West led the heart queen, declarer won with dummy's king and played a club to his ace. When West discarded a heart, South thought, "Nein, we did not miss sieben Treff." How did declarer continue?

South cashed the spade king and diamond ace, ruffed a diamond on the board and took the spade ace, discarding a diamond from his hand. Now came the spade queen, which East ruffed with the club seven. Declarer overruffed with the nine, cashed the heart ace and ruffed a heart on the board. East ruffed the next top spade with the club eight, and South overruffed with the queen. South trumped a diamond with dummy's club king, his 11th trick.

East was left with the club jack-four; South had the diamond jack and club six. The lead of a spade from the dummy allowed declarer to score his club six with a coup en passant.

"You managed to nicely play the cards," complimented North.

North 03-24-20
♠ A Q 10 8 5 4
♥ K 2
♦ 6
♣ K 10 5 3

West
♠ 7 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 7 5
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ —

East
♠ J 9
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ J 8 7 4 2

South
♠ K
♥ A 9 4
♦ A J 8 3 2
♣ A Q 9 6

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

	9	4		6			5	
		2			9	6	7	3
6				8	1	9		4
4	2		1					
5		1	9	2	8	3		7
					4		8	2
9		5	4	1				8
1	4	6	8			7		
	8			9		4	1	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	9	5	4	6	1	8	7	3
4	6	3	5	7	8	9	2	1
7	8	1	9	2	3	4	5	6
5	1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8
3	4	8	6	1	5	2	9	7
9	7	6	8	4	2	1	3	5
6	2	7	3	8	4	5	1	9
1	3	9	2	5	6	7	8	4
8	5	4	1	9	7	3	6	2

hp SPORTS

Olympics likely to be pushed back to 2021

By STEPHEN WADE and MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — The Tokyo Olympics are probably going to happen, but almost surely in 2021 rather than in four months as planned.

That became clear after the IOC on Sunday announced it was considering a postponement and would make a final decision within four weeks. Major Olympic nations like Canada and Australia have added pressure by saying they will not send teams if the games are staged this year.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach sent a letter to athletes explaining the decision, while also acknowledging the extended timeline might not be popular.

"I know that this unprecedented situation leaves many of your questions open," he wrote. "I also know that this rational approach may not be in line with the emotions many of you have to go through."

The IOC's move seemed inevitable for weeks with pressure mounting from all quarters – athletes, sponsors, broadcasters, more than 200 national Olympic committees and international sports federations.

Shortly after Bach's statement, the Canadian Olympic Committee said it would not send athletes to the Olympics unless the games are postponed by a year. Australia issued a statement saying it was advising its athletes to prepare for an Olympics in 2021.

John Coates is the head of the Australian Olympic Committee and the IOC member who heads the inspection team for Tokyo.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe sent a letter to Bach saying that holding the Olympics in July "is neither feasible nor desirable." He outlined a number of reasons, including competitive fairness, the likelihood athletes would overtrain if given a compressed schedule and the uncertainty caused by orders in many countries barring people from gyms and other workout venues.

National Olympic committees in Brazil and Slovenia had also called for postponement until 2021. Norway's Olympic body said it did not want athletes going to Tokyo until the global health crisis is under control.

The United States governing bodies of swimming and track – two of the three top-tier Summer Games sports – had called on their national Olympic officials to push for a postponement.

Japan's politicians fell in line quickly on Monday as they awakened to Bach's move, which was announced at 3 a.m. in Tokyo as most of the city slept.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking at a parliamentary session, said a postponement of the Tokyo Olympics would be necessary if the games cannot be held in a complete way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"If it is difficult to hold (the games) in a complete way, a decision of postponement would be unavoidable," he said.

Abe said he hoped the IOC would announce a decision quickly, and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike echoed him.

The IOC holds most of the cards in any rescheduling, spelled out in a Host City Contract signed in 2013 between the IOC, the Japanese Olympic Committee and the city of Tokyo.

Japan is officially spending $12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, but a national audit put the figure at more than twice that much. The bill is sure to increase with any postponement, and the vast majority of the spending if from the public treasury.

MR. BASKETBALL

Don Campbell / HP file photo

Benton Harbor's Carlos Johnson drives through South Haven's defense during a game earlier this year at Benton Harbor High School. Johnson has been named Michigan's Mr. Basketball for 2020.

Oregon star Sabrina Ionescu is AP women's player of the year

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

Sabrina Ionescu capped off a unprecedented college career by entering an exclusive club.

Oregon's star guard was a unanimous choice Monday as The Associated Press women's basketball player of the year, receiving all 30 votes from the national media panel that selects the Top 25 each week during the season. Since the award was first given in 1995, the only other player to receive all the votes is former UConn star Breanna Stewart.

"That's pretty crazy. Someone I look up to and have a good relationship with," Ionescu told the AP. "To be in that class with her is an honor."

Ionescu, who was only the eighth player to earn AP All-American honors three times, shattered the NCAA career triple-double mark and became the first player in college history to have 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists.

"Sabrina is a transcendent basketball player," Oregon head coach Kelly Graves said. "There's really nothing that she couldn't do on the court. She was the ultimate leader."

Ioenscu came back for her senior season, saying she had unfinished business and hopes of winning a NCAA title. She averaged 17.5 points, 9.1 assists and 8.6 rebounds this season as well as having eight of her 26 career triple-doubles.

She helped the Ducks win the Pac-12 regular season and tournament titles. The native of Walnut Creek, California, was honored as the conference's most outstanding player of the tournament and regular season.

Ionescu guided Oregon to a 31-2 mark this past season, which ended prematurely with the cancellation of the NCAA Tournament because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I have enjoyed everything that I did this year," said Ionescu during the Pac-12 Tournament. "I never second-guess my choice."

Ionescu might have been the most recognizable college player this year in either the men's or women's game. Her jerseys sold out in hours at stores.

While Ionescu was a unanimous choice, South Carolina coach Dawn Staley received 20 votes from the panel to win the AP's coach of the year award for the first time.

Brady to Tampa only tip of NFL's changing landscape

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Upheaval is everywhere in the NFL. It won't likely end soon.

A free agency frenzy that has seen steady player movement – yes, players beyond Tom Brady have changed addresses – has been the focal point. With little to nothing else going on in sports, the NFL has grabbed headlines with business deals between players and teams.

Those transactions have changed the league landscape. But so have many other moves involving the draft, offseason programs and perhaps the upcoming season itself as the new coronavirus pandemic affects every aspect of our lives.

Here's a look at all of those elements in America's most popular and lucrative sport.

FREE AGENCY

Awkwardness might be the keyword. The NFL barred players from visiting teams courting them and banned club personnel from traveling to meet with the free agents – both wise and necessary moves.

Physicals on which contract agreements are reliant could only be performed locally or by doctors mutually agreed upon between franchises and players.

Signed contracts must be registered with the league before anything becomes official and players can get paid on their new deals.

That led to dozens of leaks of deals without teams being able to confirm them when the NFL business year began last Wednesday.

Through all that, million-dollar pacts emerged everywhere – some of them still unannounced by teams.

Brady leaving New England has been the mind-blowing move, naturally. Suddenly, a franchise that hasn't seen the postseason in a dozen years has some cachet. And the most dominant team of the past two decades, with Brady leading the Patriots to six championships in nine Super Bowl trips, has lost its essence.

And the other relocations through free agency and trades will require some studying up by fans. The most impactful moves so far, and with several big names still on the market, seem to be:

■ All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins dealt to Arizona by Houston.

■ QBs Teddy Bridgewater to Carolina and Philip Rivers to Indianapolis as free agents.

■ Standout cornerback Darius Slay leaving Detroit for Philadelphia, which released star safety and leader Malcolm Jenkins, who returned to New Orleans.

■ WR Stefon Diggs dealt by the Vikings to the Bills, who haven't had such an accomplished receiver in years.

■ Todd Gurley, merely the league's best running back from 2015-17 but now with knee issues, cut by the Rams and landing in Atlanta.

■ Calais Campbell, one of the best edge rushers around, dealt by Jacksonville to Baltimore.

THE DRAFT

With the huge extravaganza the draft has become scrapped, the NFL soon will announce its altered format.

Look for something resembling a studio TV show with much of the information (and misinformation) flow fans are accustomed to. There's even chatter about prospective picks being asked to allow camera crews in their homes for reactions to being selected.

By far the biggest effect of the pandemic on the draft is the elimination of pro days at various schools. While some see those as outings manufactured and managed by the collegians and their representatives, many NFL teams find significant value in them.

As for Las Vegas, it will get another draft, perhaps the 2022 selections that are unspoken for right now. Next year will be in Cleveland, 2023 in Kansas City.

OFFSEASON PROGRAMS

Losing OTAs and minicamps in the spring would seem minor – most everything about the machinations of sports right now can feel that way – but they are important to teams in several ways.

If a new coaching staff is in place, those get-togethers are when players begin grasping new playbooks and philosophies and strategies. Not to mention getting to know the coaches they'll be working under. And new teammates.

Team chemistry begins to build during those sessions. Fitness can be gauged. So can dedication and perseverance.

Out-of-shape players will be the norm this summer, and getting them back into football fitness will present a real challenge.

THE SCHEDULE

The schedule might not be in flux for the regular season set to begin on Sept. 10, probably in Kansas City. But the preseason, from when training camps can open and what restrictions exist – caused by the new coronavirus or by the labor agreement that went into effect this month – to actually playing exhibition games could be in question.

We've already seen how shoddy September contests can be with so many regulars sitting out August games. What if the NFL needs to cancel preseason games?

Then again, many fans might applaud that, eager for the real stuff, no matter how sloppy it might be early on.

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Congress again falls short in a crisis

E.J. Dionne

The coronavirus crisis might have represented an opportunity for our political system to show what it could accomplish when a common threat put the common good on the minds of everyone. And the accompanying economic crisis should have led to fast action to help Americans most vulnerable to the ravages of lost jobs and lost income.

The early returns are not good on either front.

There is no need to elaborate on President Trump's manifest unfitness for leadership. Every day brings more lying, more self-involvement, more pettiness and more lashing out at anyone who dares to point out how unprepared his administration left the country.

Thus, when Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, a Democrat, told CNN on Sunday that the nation's hospitals were running far short of safe gowns, surgical masks and gloves, and that "this should have been a coordinated effort by the federal government," our petulant leader lashed out at Pritzker and the media on Twitter. They "shouldn't be blaming the Federal Government for their own shortcomings." And never mind that it's the governors and mayors who are saving us now.

Here's an idea for a highly efficient economic stimulus and confidence-builder: The president of the United States should just shut up for an extended period.

But, yes, the economy also needs Congress to pass practical measures to prevent economic collapse. So it was deeply discouraging that what might have been a bipartisan stimulus effort faltered Sunday when Senate Republicans insisted on including in their bill a $500 billion corporate bailout fund that would be administered by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. It contained few safeguards on how he would dole the money out, and Treasury wouldn't disclose who it was helping for six months.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., characterized the plan as "a half-trillion dollar slush fund," which seems entirely appropriate and doesn't inspire confidence. You would like to hope Republicans will eventually figure this out.

In the meantime, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's decision to keep House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at arm's length until Sunday may prove to be another miscalculation. Pelosi looked at what the GOP Senate was up to and, quite reasonably, said she wants the Democratic House to produce its own bill. This will either slow the process – or, to be optimistic, push McConnell toward much-needed flexibility.

The simple truth is that the nation needs a huge stimulus bill because we are staring at an economic catastrophe. Greg Leiserson, a member of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama administration now at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, laid out the imperatives: "Err on the side of being too big rather than too small, be sure help continues as long as it's needed, and address the public health crisis."

On size, the $1.8 trillion stimulus that the Senate is contemplating sounds big, but it may yet prove inadequate to the task. In response to demands from Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., some big improvements were made on an earlier Republican proposal by substantially increasing funding for unemployment insurance and extending it over several months – although it would be far better if the beefed-up program were extended through the life of this economic crisis.

The final bill needs more money to help states through what will be an enormous fiscal crisis – without it, layoffs will multiply – and stepped-up relief through the food stamp program that might also be extended to help renters who face eviction.

And Congress has to be creative to make sure the proposed one-time payments of $1,200 per adult and $500 per child are not only allocated to the poorest people in the country (most were cut out of an earlier version of the proposal, since corrected) but also get to them fast. This will be challenging because millions among the very poor do not file income-tax returns. "You really need to get the money out as quickly as you can ... and to use as many channels as you can to get the money out," said Jacob Leibenluft, senior fellow at the Center for National Progress.

But this entire episode points to a glaring weakness of our nation's economic policy: We should not be as dependent as we are on slapdash emergency action by Congress in a crisis.

Thus, one good thing that could come out of this emergency: A system that would automatically put stabilizers in place to keep a downturn from becoming a death spiral. Various forms of support – from unemployment insurance to food stamps to emergency aid to the states – should kick in when economic indicators turn negative. This would be good for needy individuals and families, but also for the economy as a whole.

But for now, Congress needs to focus urgently on the individuals, families, small businesses, health systems and charitable groups facing calamity. Just this once, can they show us democracy's best side?

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

A time for creating in-place

Kathleen Parker

Where there is humor, there is hope. And we need all the laughs we can get right now.

I'm referring to the parade of "celebrities" who joined together – while still apart – to sing the John Lennon classic "Imagine" and then posted it on Instagram. Created and collated by movie actress Gal Gadot, the video strings together snippets of the song sung by various people. Some were actual singers while others assuredly were not.

I recognized some of the faces but most of the names eluded me. Forgive my celebrity-ignorance, but many years have passed since I recognized anybody in "People" magazine. I'd probably do better with National Geographic. These stars were just being regular-folk in their music-making, sheltering at home and reflecting no one's admiration, so they little resembled their public selves. That was surely part of the appeal, at least in theory. In fact, they seemed a little sad and depressed – either because they were sad and depressed or thought they should be.

We are all adjusting as best we can. Our normal days have ended now – at least the usual course of them – as we wrestle with this strange virus that seems so suddenly to have consumed much of the world with sickness, death and fear. Perhaps because we are running short of so many medical necessities, the virus has also generated an unexpected but needed surplus of humor. Some of the comments following the "Imagine" production were laugh-out-loud worth it. My personal favorite aimed at the singing celebs: If each of you don't immediately Venmo me $1,000, I'm going to hunt you down and cough on you.

Ok, it's funny if you watch the "Imagine" video. Some of the singers were pretty bad, which was humanizing, but only if you knew they were celebs. To me, they looked like everybody else in the garden section of Lowes on Sundays, only with better cheekbones.

As inspirational moments go, it isn't fair to compare them to, say, Queen, performing at Live Aid, the 1985 global benefit concert for Ethiopian famine. It's far easier to manhandle four octaves before a crowd of 72,000 worshipers swaying to your beat than it is to stare into a smartphone and sing, essentially, to yourself.

Gadot's idea was no doubt heartfelt. You can sort of see how it happened. *Hey, I'm sheltering, you're sheltering. Let's do something cool like sing "Imagine" and release it on Instagram to lift people's spirits.* It seemed like a good idea at the time. Indeed, I still feel the pain of the other patrons seated in a restaurant when long ago my college pals and I decided to favor everyone with an arm-in-arm rendering of "Everything is Beautiful." Only we weren't rich or famous.

Gadot's "Imagine" was created along the same lines as the viral video of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me," which featured diverse people singing the song in different parts of the world. It was created by Playing for Change, an organization dedicated to the premise that the world can be "re-imagined" and united through music. If you're not one of the more than 142 million people who have watched it on YouTube, you're in for a treat.

If "Imagine" didn't quite gel, it may be because we're too jaded or too raw from the daily torrent of increasingly awful news to react charitably just yet. If nothing else, the performers, some unrecognizable without makeup, reminded us that beneath our daily trappings of artifice, we're all pretty much the same.

Ultimately, COVID-19 may liberate us from our vanities, if it doesn't kill us first. Meanwhile, I predict creativity will surge as millions of people muddle through sheltering and realize they have been suppressing emotions and guarding hidden talents for too long. The bright side of all this darkness is that the light will out. Newton discovered gravity, Shakespeare dreamt up Macbeth and Boccaccio conceived "The Decameron" all while sheltering in place from plagues in their day.

Creation, like life, is a force that won't be denied. Who knows what masterpieces await the imaginations of the still-sheltered artists among us.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post.

ANOTHER OPINION

Congress shouldn't forget national parks

As Congress provides economic support amid the coronavirus pandemic, it should also fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and a backlog of National Parks maintenance work.

Before the virus crisis spread in the U.S., Congress was moving toward fully funding these programs to support outdoor recreation, parks, forests and waterways. Even President Donald Trump tweeted his support on March 3, after earlier cutting the Land and Water Conservation Fund in his budget proposal.

The need is even greater today. After the current isolation and self-quarantines pass, parks and open spaces will be a much needed tonic.

Fully funding LWCF is also a low-cost economic stimulus that will reach all corners of the country, yielding direct and indirect benefits. It supports outdoor recreation that generated more than $887 billion in annual consumer spending and supported 7.6 million jobs in recent years, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

The LWCF, introduced by Washington's late U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson and passed in 1964, is terrific policy.

Using a share of federal oil and gas royalties, it funds natural resources across the nation, including parks, pools, trails and open space.

In Washington state alone, this helped fund nearly 300 recreation facilities and preserve 120,000 acres of open space. That includes some 5,000 acres and public access sites along the Skagit River, support for the Yakima Basin water management and environmental restoration project, and protection of lands along the Pacific Crest Trail, at Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and repairs and improvements to Mount Rainier National Park.

But for years the national fund was skimmed off for other purposes, leaving it $22 billion short.

A bipartisan effort to permanently authorize its funding was pushed in 2019.

A bill has been introduced for a yearly $900 million allocation, so it's not vulnerable to budget maneuvers.

The bill, introduced March 9, would also allocate $6.5 billion to the National Park Service and $1.425 billion to the Forest Service over the next five years.

Congress should quickly approve the Great American Outdoors Act and ensure perpetual investment in treasured parks and public lands. This is a low-cost, low-risk way to invest in economic growth and provide vast and immeasurable benefits for future generations.

– The Seattle Times

Trump's strange coronavirus show

Doyle McManus

President Donald Trump is finally taking the coronavirus contagion seriously.

Just over a week ago, Trump told Americans the pandemic was nothing to worry about. "Relax," he said. "We're doing great."

But after casualty projections soared and financial markets plummeted, he appeared to realize that the crisis will define his presidency and determine whether he wins a second term.

Unable to stage mass rallies, his favorite way to communicate to his base, Trump began holding daily televised briefings with a unifying theme: Your Wartime President in Action.

Unfortunately, much of what he says amounts to self-promotion and wishful thinking.

Last Monday, he unveiled a new set of guidelines – "15 Days to Slow the Spread" – for minimizing social interaction.

On Tuesday, he urged Congress to pass a $1 trillion economic stimulus package. On Wednesday, he ordered Navy hospital ships to New York and California and said he might invoke the Defense Production Act, a law that allows him to order companies to produce needed equipment.

On Thursday, he declared that the Food and Drug Administration had approved two anti-malaria drugs for use against the coronavirus. "It could be a game-changer," he said.

On Friday, he said that he's closing the U.S. border with Mexico to most traffic.

On Saturday, he said private industry has stepped up to produce surgical masks and ventilators, and blamed past administrations for any shortages that exist.

All that in addition to his earlier claim that Google was rolling out a website to direct anxious Americans to coronavirus testing sites in Walmart parking lots.

Alas, most of those pronouncements were what tech companies call "vaporware" – promises of products that don't yet exist.

The corrections quickly piled up. The Google website (actually built by Verily, a Google cousin) is available only to residents of two Northern California counties. Congress is still wrangling over the stimulus; the check is not in the mail.

The hospital ships are being refitted and won't sail for at least two weeks. Trump hasn't used the Defense Production Act to order any equipment. The newly manufactured masks won't be available for weeks. And the FDA hasn't approved any drugs for use against COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. It's merely collecting data on an accelerated basis to see if they work.

If the president's goal was to reassure Americans, his salesmanship didn't do the trick.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index dropped more than 4 percent on Friday, closing out the worst week since the 2008 stock market crash. Wall Street has now erased all of the gains accumulated during the Trump administration.

That left the president to fall back on a familiar gambit: hectoring reporters over their coverage.

When a TV correspondent asked the president for his message to Americans who are scared, Trump snapped, "I say that you're a terrible reporter.... It is a bad signal that you are putting out."

For a conventional politician, that would have been a softball question. When it was posed to Vice President Mike Pence, he swung for the bleachers: "I would say, 'Do not be afraid. Be vigilant.'"

Even odder, there was some good news in the briefings, delivered by less bombastic officials such as Pence and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

Despite plenty of problems, the pace of coronavirus testing is increasing. Pence said Saturday that more than 195,000 tests have been administered, a sharp increase from earlier estimates.

Trump rebuked governors for expecting his administration to provide lifesaving supplies, saying, "We are not a shipping clerk." But the federal government has stepped up shipments of medical supplies, although many hospitals still face shortages of critical gear.

As Trump noted, some companies have begun to retool production lines to produce masks for medical workers and ventilators for patients, although it's not clear how long that will take. Dozens of laboratories are searching for a therapeutic drug or a cure, although vaccines are at least a year away.

"We haven't been given the credit that we deserve," the president complained Friday. He may turn out to be right – but if so, he's partly responsible.

He has over-promised and under-delivered – like a real estate promoter selling condos, not a leader steeling his people for difficult times ahead. A more sober description of the situation – one that acknowledges when things go awry – would be more convincing.

If the president and his aides can manage the crisis successfully – slowing the spread of the virus, getting medical equipment where it's needed, easing the carnage to the economy – he'll deserve the credit he seeks. Right now, he's demanding praise for work he hasn't done.

In the America of Trump's briefings, everyone who needs a test can already get one. Every hospital can order surgical masks on the phone. A vaccine will be ready "in record time." The economy will roar back "like a rocket ship."

I hope he's right. I hope all those good things come true. If they do, I'll give him the credit he deserves.

Until then, I'm going to listen to Dr. Fauci and minimize contact with others. And so, I hope, will you.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

The Herald-Palladium

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LEGALS

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Date of Birth: August 17, 1929

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marjorie A. Correll who lived at 1868 South Sierra Way, Stevensville, MI 49127, died October 30, 2019.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Walter R. Fish, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the named/proposed personal representative within four months after the date of this publication of this notice.

Date: March 20, 2020
Name: Walter R. Fish
Address: 5618 E. Hiawatha Lane
City/State: Stevensville, MI 49127
Phone: (269) 208-7658

Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco & Thompson Law Offices, P.L.L.C.
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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Settle down and give yourself a chance to put a strategy in place. Try to shed what is no longer working and replace it with something better. Make this a year of transition. Slow down and take the time to do things properly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Keep your emotions under control and your thoughts practical. Overreacting will hold you back. If you look for the positive, you'll discover the best way to move forward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't give in to a bully or to emotional manipulation. If you have reservations about someone, back away and take care of matters on your own. It's better to be safe than sorry.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Spend time with people you can learn from, not with those who continually want something from you. A self-improvement project will get good results. A spa day will ease stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Too much or too little will be problematic. Don't put yourself in financial jeopardy. Don't spend more than you can afford and don't feel compelled to impress someone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A physical challenge will keep you on your toes. Don't take an unnecessary risk. Associate with people who inspire and encourage you. Share your plans with someone you want to work alongside.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Channel your energy into nurturing meaningful relationships. Home improvements that fit your lifestyle will add to your convenience and give you more time to share with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Take a look at what you've accomplished and what's still on your to-do list. Align yourself with people who can provide what you lack and be part of an unbeatable team.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Make adjustments that will result in a better life. If you take action first, everyone who counts will follow. Set the standard and live up to your promises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do what works best for you. Don't let anyone disrupt your plans or life. Remain focused and intent on reaching your goal. Know your worth, and don't settle for less.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take what's said at face value. Verify any information you receive before you pass it along or make a change based on what you are led to believe. Romance is featured.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Pay it forward. Offer assistance and understanding to someone in need. A new relationship will develop that has the potential to lead to a serious commitment.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If you listen and observe, you'll pick up on a vibe someone is sending you. You'll be attracted to someone very different from yourself. Romance is in the stars.

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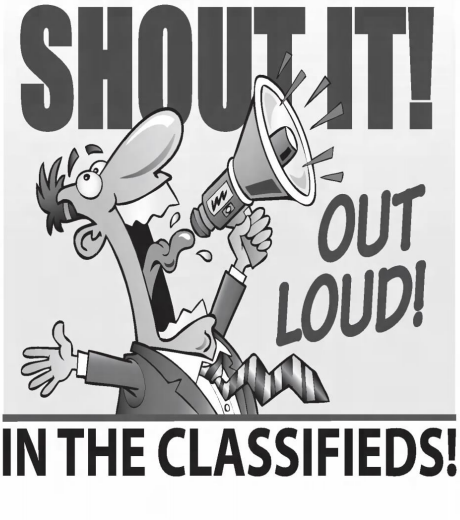

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If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER ENVELOPE addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses

You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous

To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges

Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

BEETLE BAILEY

WHY ARE THESE TENTS THE SAME SIZE?
I'M AN OFFICER! MINE SHOULD BE LARGER!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
BUILDING LT. FUZZ A LOG TENT
BEETLE BAILEY
MORT WALKER
3/24

BLONDIE

I LIKE THAT HEART HAND SYMBOL THAT'S SO POPULAR THESE DAYS!
ME TOO! YOUR DAD USES IT A LOT!
REALLY?
YES...USUALLY IT'S TO SAY THANK YOU WHEN HIS MOUTH IS FULL
3-24

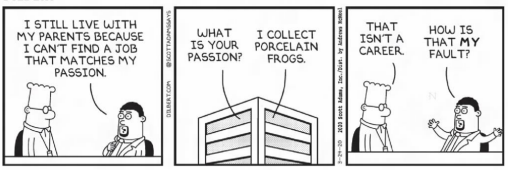
HI & LOIS

THEY'RE FIRING 20 PEOPLE AT WORK.
ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?
NO, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PICK UP THE SLACK.
SO, THEY JUST FIRED THE SLACKERS?
3-24

BC

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT


I STILL LIVE WITH MY PARENTS BECAUSE I CAN'T FIND A JOB THAT MATCHES MY PASSION.
WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?
I COLLECT PORCELAIN FROGS.
THAT ISN'T A CAREER.
HOW IS THAT MY FAULT?

GARFIELD

FORT KNOX

SO THAT PUMB MUTT TRIED TO BITE A RUNNER?
MONPO WAS TRYING TO PROTECT ME.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S AT RISK HERE?
SINCE I MAY BE SUED?
YEAH! YOU'LL LOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE.
MONPO?
MY INHERITANCE!
GOLD PIG!
3/24

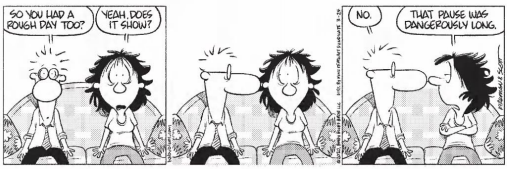
PICKLES

EARL, ARE YOU BUSY?
HUH?
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T SAY "HUH" WHEN I ASK YOU A QUESTION.
YOU COULD SAY "WHAT?" OR "YES, DEAR?" OR "I'M LISTENING." OR EVEN "JUST A MOMENT, I'M BUSY."
BUT WHEN YOU SAY "HUH?" IT MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE A NEANDERTHAL.
HUH?
3/24

FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES



CURTIS

I'VE TOLD EVERYONE AT SCHOOL THAT I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU, DAD
SERIOUSLY, CURTIS? IS THE BUTTERING ME UP TO GET SOME MONEY STARTING THIS EARLY?
WHY CAN'T YOU OFFER TO DO ANY WORK 'ROUND HERE TO EARN IT?
BUTTERING YOU UP IS THE WORK!!

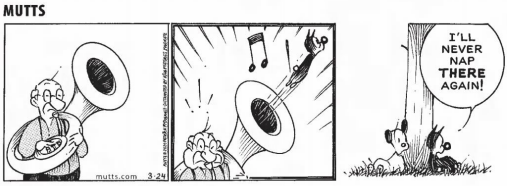
ZITS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

HELGA, DO YOU BELIEVE THERE ARE THINGS THAT OCCUR IN THIS WORLD THAT WILL NEVER BE EXPLAINED?
I DO...
BUT YOU COMING HOME AT 3 A.M. IS NOT GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE THINGS.
3-24

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT. WE'RE ALL BUSY. SOME MORE THAN OTHERS. BUT I JUST HEARD THE SCHOOL'S SPRING DANCE IS A COSTUME PARTY AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A BAND. SO I THOUGHT WE COULD ALL PERFORM IN GROUP COSPLAY!
3-24
YOU'RE ALL JUST GOING TO LEAVE ME HANGING IN THIS RIDICULOUS POSE?
HIL...

Trump shows impatience with health experts on coronavirus

By NOAH BIERMAN, CHRIS MEGERIAN and ELI STOKOLS
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — With the nation's economy shuddering to a stop, millions of Americans out of work and another cliff dive in the stock market Monday, President Donald Trump and his allies began showing public and private impatience with the extreme restrictions federal and state officials have ordered to deal with the exploding coronavirus crisis.

Even as U.S. infections and deaths jumped again, and additional cities and states issued stay-at-home orders, Trump said he will reassess his administration's call to close schools and offices, encourage people to work from home and avoid gatherings after a 15-day period that ends March 30.

"WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF," Trump tweeted in capital letters just before midnight Sunday. "AT THE END OF THE 15 DAY PERIOD, WE WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHICH WAY WE WANT TO GO!"

Epidemiologists say social distancing is necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus infections, and Trump's surgeon general, Dr. Jerome Robbins, warned Monday that the outbreak will worsen this week because "not enough people ... are taking this seriously," citing those flocking to beaches in California or looking at cherry blossoms on the National Mall in Washington.

"We really, really need everyone to stay at home," he said on NBC.

Vice President Mike Pence indicated Sunday at a White House briefing that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would issue new guidelines as soon as Monday to allow more people to resume working outside their homes if they wear masks.

That could allow states with relatively low numbers of confirmed infections to start to ease the most onerous restrictions. Whether Trump will lift the federal restrictions that have caused economic carnage isn't clear.

Long disdainful of scientists and other experts, he is known to be frustrated with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has been given a wide berth to drive White House policy in private meetings and to explain and defend it in public.

Fauci, the nation's top epidemiologist for decades who has won bipartisan accolades, has at times publicly corrected or contradicted Trump with his blunt talk on the need to take aggressive measures to stop COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, from overwhelming hospitals and potentially causing hundreds of thousands of deaths.

Trump's tweets often reflect what he sees on cable TV, and his suggestion that he might lift the public health guidelines echoed language used Sunday by Fox News commentator Steve Hilton. On Monday, Trump retweeted Fox News personality Tomi Lahren, who equated the limits to "house arrest."

Although coronavirus infections have been reported in every state, the worst hit states so far are on the coasts, including California and New York, both Democratic strongholds. For some of Trump's supporters in more rural areas, the threat remains more abstract for now.

With warnings that unemployment could reach 20 percent or higher, Trump now faces the prospect that the nation will undergo a severe recession as he faces reelection. Until recently, he based his campaign almost entirely on the booming stock market, low unemployment and growing economy since he took office in 2017.

After his 90-minute White House news conference ended Sunday evening, Trump returned to his residence and began to work the phones, checking in on outside advisers and friends, many in the media and business world.

The president's tweet hours later, according to one individual in touch with the president, seemed to reflect those conversations: shared concerns about the economic devastation being wrought by the public health response, as well as Trump's frustrations with Fauci, who heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

In recent interviews, Fauci made clear he believed people should limit their contacts for several more weeks at least. He also acknowledged the daylight between his views of the crisis and the president's.

At Saturday's briefing, after Trump brushed off complaints a reporter read from doctors and nurses about the dangerous shortage of masks and other personal protective equipment, Fauci stepped to the lectern and said he knew the concerns reflected the reality at many hospitals.

Fauci was asked in an interview with Science magazine published Sunday night how he's managed not to get fired despite contradicting the president in public.

"To his credit, even though we disagree on some things, he listens. He goes his own way. He has his own style. But on substantive issues, he does listen to what I say," Fauci said.

But Fauci has struggled to get his message through at times. For example, he told Science that members of the coronavirus task force should stand farther apart when they give briefings.

"When you're dealing with the White House, sometimes you have to say things one, two, three, four times, and then it happens," Fauci said. "So I'm going to keep pushing."

He also said that he had not, and would not, call the coronavirus the "Chinese virus," as Trump does.

Death Notices

Ester Carlene (Pinkston) Bundesman, 94, of Bridgman died March 22, 2020, at Brentwood of Niles. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Nella R. Burnett, 95, of St. Joseph died March 19, 2020, at Royalton Manor, St. Joseph. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

Kellie Catt, 29, of Niles died March 19, 2020. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Bernardine Irene Evan, 87, of Sawyer died March 21, 2020. Wager Family Funerals, Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis, 445-2435.

Lee Harris, 87, of Watervliet died March 23, 2020, at home. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Marjorie F. Kesterke, 100, of St. Joseph, formerly of Berrien Springs died March 20, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

Tobye Babbitt Merrill, 63, of Niles died March, 21, 2020, at home. Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Michael G. Olinger, 60, of Dowagiac died March 5, 2020, in Kalamazoo, Mich. Whitley Memorial Funeral Home, Kalamazoo, 488-2401.

Paul R. Pflugradt, 80, of Watervliet died March 23, 2020, at home. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Risa Voorhees, 63, of Three Oaks died March 22, 2020. Pobocik Chapel, Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

Michael Glenn Olinger

April 5, 1959 – March 5, 2020

Michael Glenn Olinger, 60, of Dowagiac went to be home with the Lord on Thursday, March 5, 2020, in Kalamazoo, Mich., after an ongoing battle with cancer.

He was born on April 5, 1959, in Chicago, the son of Wayne E. Olinger and Julia C. (Ledberg-Olinger) Williams. Mike graduated with honors in 1977 from Dowagiac Union High School and continued his studies at Southwestern Michigan College, where he earned several degrees. Mike was a longtime employee at Ameriwood Industries in Dowagiac and then the Greater Kalamazoo Auto Auction of Schoolcraft, Mich.

One of Mike's most shining talents was being a great DJ, and with the addition of karaoke in the '90s, had a very successful business while entertaining thousands of people at a variety of different types of parties, including weddings, events and bars. Mike enjoyed fishing, canoeing, sunshine, being anywhere close to the lakes, listening to music, television, pizza, Taco Bell and the nightlife.

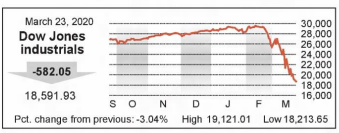
Surviving are Mike's mother, Julia C. Williams of Dowagiac; sister, Wanda Olinger McCue of Blue Island, Ill.; nephews, Jake McCue and William McCue, both of Blue Island; and second cousin, Joanne Herold of Chicago.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Wayne E. Olinger; stepfather, Bernard E. Williams; grandparents, Axel E. and Hermina M. (Fleck) Ledberg and Thomas E. and Ruby V. Olinger; and lastly, his faithful canine friend, Klinger.

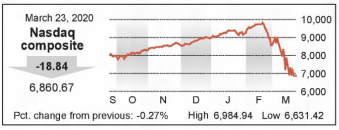
Per Mike's wishes, cremation has taken place with Whitley Memorial Funeral Home, Kalamazoo, being in charge of arrangements. A celebration of life event will be held at a later date. Donations may be directed to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

For a complete obituary including a photo/tribute wall, please visit www.whitley memorialfuneralhome.com. As a reminder, please wear your sunscreen.

MARKETS



Pct. change from previous: -3.04% High 19,121.01 Low 18,213.65



Pct. change from previous: -0.27% High 6,984.94 Low 6,631.42

Amer Elec Power AEP
$70.00 -1.45 -2.0%
▼ 4-wk. -30.0% ▼ YTD -25.9%

Whirlpool WHR
$64.22 -10.23 -13.7%
▼ 4-wk. -54.4% ▼ YTD -56.5%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	28.18	39.70	26.77	-1.68	-5.9	▼	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	70.26	104.97	70.00	-1.45	-2.0	▼	▼	▼
Apple Inc	AAPL	170.27	327.85	224.37	-4.87	-2.1	▼	▼	▼
AutoZone	AZO	720.88	1274.41	723.22	-4.91	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
BP PLC	BP	15.51	45.38	18.19	+.80	+4.6	▲	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	48.62	69.12	48.51	-1.04	-2.1	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	37.51	60.07	37.56	-.74	-1.9	▼	▼	▼
Comcast	CMCSA	32.63	47.74	34.17	+.80	+2.4	▲	▼	▼
Deere	DE	106.14	180.48	111.15	-.48	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
Disney	DIS	79.07	153.41	85.76	-.22	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	119.71	76.37	+.40	+0.5	▲	▼	▼
ExxonMbl	XOM	31.23	83.49	31.45	-1.29	-3.9	▼	▼	▼
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.64	12.16	-.75	-5.8	▼	▼	▼
1stSource	SRCE	27.14	53.42	27.25	-.54	-1.9	▼	▼	▼
FordM	F	4.10	10.56	4.01	-.32	-7.4	▼	▼	▼
GenElec	GE	5.90	13.26	6.11	-.41	-6.3	▼	▼	▼
HomeDp	HD	140.63	247.12	162.39	+10.24	+6.7	▲	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.89	19.48	8.15	+.18	+2.3	▲	▼	▼
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.86	15.63	7.00	-.62	-8.1	▼	▼	▼
IDEX	IEX	104.56	178.14	114.65	-1.83	-1.6	▼	▼	▼
IBM	IBM	94.71	158.75	94.77	-.62	-0.6	▼	▼	▼
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	79.03	-4.47	-5.4	▼	▼	▼
JohnJn	JNJ	118.13	154.50	111.14	-8.75	-7.3	▼	▼	▼
Lowes	LOW	60.00	126.73	67.80	+1.44	+2.2	▲	▼	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	221.93	137.10	-11.39	-7.7	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	115.52	190.70	135.98	-1.37	-1.0	▼	▼	▼
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	19.42	+.04	+0.2	▲	▼	▼
Penney	JCP	0.36	1.51	.40	-.05	-10.9	▼	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	40.17	63.86	42.27	+.14	+0.3	▲	▼	▼
Pfizer	PFE	28.91	44.56	28.49	-.52	-1.8	▼	▼	▼
ProctGam	PG	101.00	128.09	97.70	-4.73	-4.6	▼	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	70.52	100.91	66.26	-5.28	-7.4	▼	▼	▼
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	9.46	-.14	-1.5	▼	▼	▼
Stryker	SYK	126.05	226.30	126.50	-12.88	-9.2	▼	▼	▼
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	18.95	-2.40	-11.2	▼	▼	▼
Target	TGT	70.03	130.24	96.69	-.71	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	114.25	78.06	+2.15	+2.8	▲	▼	▼
UPS B	UPS	82.00	125.31	91.90	-1.56	-1.7	▼	▼	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	49.02	62.22	50.31	-1.49	-2.9	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	72.08	109.53	70.89	-3.20	-4.3	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	96.79	128.08	114.28	+.31	+0.3	▲	▼	▼
WalgBoots	WBA	40.52	64.50	43.61	-2.81	-6.1	▼	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.04	11.42	+.48	+4.4	▲	▼	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	73.73	163.64	64.22	-10.23	-13.7	▼	▼	▼
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	44.69	21.01	-.09	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	100.18	44.37	+3.68	+9.0	▲	▼	▼

Europe eyes phone location data to stop virus spread

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain, Germany and Italy are evaluating powerful and invasive tools for what epidemiologists call contact-tracing, the mapping of personal interactions that could spread the virus. These apps would use real-time phone data to pinpoint virus carriers and people they might have infected.

That worries privacy advocates, who fear such ubiquitous surveillance could be abused without careful oversight, with potentially dire consequences for civil liberties.

"These are testing times, but they do not call for untested new technologies," a group of mostly British activists said in an open letter Monday to the country's National Health Service. The letter noted that such measures put human right at risk and may not work.

The new tools would mark a substantial departure from existing European disease-surveillance efforts, which have focused on tracking people's movements with aggregated phone location data designed not to identify individuals. Italian police also began mobilizing drones on Monday to enforce restrictions on citizens' movements.

But there is a powerful argument in favor of more powerful digital tools, even if they shred privacy: They have been used by several of the Asian governments most successful at containing the pandemic locally, including in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore.

So far, there's no indication the U.S. government plans to track identifiable individuals for disease surveillance. A spokesperson for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy said it was not currently working on such an app. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not respond to questions from The Associated Press.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago - 1995

The Niles-based United Fixtures Company announced that it plans to build a new $5.5 million pallet rack manufacturing plant in southern Niles Township that will create 130 new jobs.

It's scheduled to be built on an L-shaped 65-acre parcel of land along South Third Street south of Bell Road, with the first phase of construction completed by Sept. 1. The plant is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.

35 years ago - 1985

Cynthia Besemer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Besemer of Coloma, has taken the position of deputy attorney general in the criminal division of the California Attorney General's office. A graduate of Coloma High School, the University of Michigan and McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, Calif., she previously was attorney for the State Public Employees' Retirement System in Sacramento.

50 years ago - 1970

Robert Van Avery of Lake Michigan Beach in Coloma received a commendation award from Berrien County Sheriff Nick Jewell for his willingness to become involved in the fight against crime. Van Avery, a driver for the State Highway Department, spotted five men abandoning a stolen car on Glenlord Road and followed them in his highway truck after they entered a second car and notified the sheriff's office.

The award was the first of its kind, aimed at encouraging citizens to assist law enforcement agencies in fighting crime.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, March 24, the 84th day of 2020. There are 282 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On March 24, 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez (vahl-DEEZ') ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

On this date:

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch (kohk) announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

In 1958, Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army at the draft board in Memphis, Tennessee, before boarding a bus for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Presley underwent basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, before being shipped off to Germany.)

In 1975, Muhammad Ali defeated Chuck Wepner with a technical knockout in the 15th round of a fight in Richfield, Ohio. (Wepner, a journeyman known as the "Bayonne Bleeder," inspired Sylvester Stallone to make his "Rocky" films.)

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military. British war hero Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, 88, died in Alton, Hampshire, England.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Scattered Rain	Rain Likely
44°	35°	48° / 38°	45° / 39°	47° / 37°	49° / 41°

Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 44°, humidity of 79%. East wind 2 to 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of rain, overnight low of 35°. East wind 2 to 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 33°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:41 a.m.
Sunset	8:03 p.m.
Moonrise	8:13 a.m.
Moonset	8:23 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
3/24	4/1	4/7	4/14

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature	
High	41°
Low	32°
Normal High	50°
Normal Low	31°
Record High	65° in 2000
Record Low	16° in 2014
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.05"
Month to date	1.45"
Normal for month	1.75"
Year to date	6.37"
Normal Year to date	4.92"

Air Quality

Yesterday 41

Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

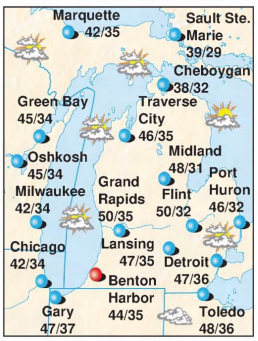
0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 ..... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

How often does lightning strike the ground in the United States?

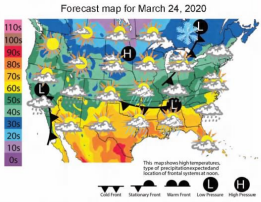
Answer: Between 25 to 30 million times each year.

Regional Map



National Weather Map

Forecast map for March 24, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, ESE wind 6 to 8 kt. A chance of showers. Waves around 1 ft. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, E wind 8 to 10 kt. A chance of showers. Waves around 1 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s and 40s. Southeast wind 2 to 11 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with isolated rain and showers, highs in the 40s. South southeast wind 3 to 7 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 40s and 50s. East wind 2 to 7 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with highs in the 40s and 50s. Light winds.

ORDER

From page A1

hospitals, so we can ramp up testing and develop therapeutic drugs that may lower hospitalization and fatality rates.

"It's been observed: If it were possible to wave a magic wand and make all Americans freeze in place for 14 days, six feet away from one another, the whole epidemic would sputter to a halt. It's on all of us to do our part."

Without the stay-at-home order, current models project 70 percent of the state's population of nearly 10 million could become infected with 1 million people hospitalized, Whitmer said. The state has roughly 25,000 acute care beds.

The current trajectory, she said, "looks a lot like Italy."

"When we look back at this, we've got to be able to say we did everything we could," Whitmer said.

Federal resources recently sent to the state were frustratingly sparse, Whitmer said, with an allotment for one hospital "barely enough to cover one shift."

The lifting of the stay-at-home order on April 13 will depend on testing numbers, compliance with the executive order and hospitals' capacity to test, isolate and treat those infected, Whitmer said. She emphasized that grocery stores, restaurant take-out, pharmacies and gas stations will remain open.

"Do not panic. Do not hoard. These services will remain open," she said.

Businesses that do not comply with the order will be fined or shuttered, the governor said.

"Don't play fast and loose with what is essential and what is not," Whitmer said. "Don't try to skirt the rules."

Critical infrastructure workers are defined as those in the fields of health care, law enforcement, public safety, food and agriculture, energy, water and wastewater, transportation, communications, other community-based government operations, critical manufacturing, hazardous materials, financial services, chemical supply chains and defense industrial base.

The order also exempts child care workers, those employed by "designated suppliers and distribution centers," workers in the insurance industry and those who "perform critical labor union functions."

There are exemptions from the penalty for places of religious worship and exemptions that allow businesses to maintain minimum basic operations.

"Individuals must secure such services or supplies via delivery to the maximum extent possible," the new order says.

Earlier Monday, Michigan Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Rich Studley said he had spoken with administration officials Monday morning regarding the order. He said the directive was not expected to be the equivalent of the "blunt instruments" used in states on the East and West coasts when they had sudden upticks in cases.

POLICE

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digesting the governor's order and developing a plan to adhere to it. But he has reservations.

"In my opinion, we're almost two seconds away from marshal law," McGinnis said. "This is all so fast-moving. I see it as almost an infringement of people's rights."

He said his officers will not ticket people for being out.

"We're not going to start pulling over every car and asking people where they're going," he said.

Regarding potential crowds of people gathering in close proximity outdoors, McGinnis said, "We'll remind them that they're too close, and ask them to distance themselves."

Bridgman Police Chief Daniel Unruh said his department is operating as usual.

"If or when we receive a report of people gathering, businesses opening or operating or motorists driving in violation of the governor's order, we will look into it and take appropriate action," he said. "We will continue to enforce traffic and criminal laws as we always have and will exercise discretion if we find anyone violating the governor's order."

St. Joseph Public Safety Director Steve Neubecker said the order will be hard to enforce.

"It will be extremely difficult to determine who is a critical infrastructure worker and who is not. You may still leave your residence to go to the grocery store, pick up food, go to the pharmacy, fill your car with gas, or take your animals to the veterinarian," Neubecker said. "This will be difficult, but we will do the best we can to enforce it."

Bailey commended Berrien County Health Department and Spectrum Health Lakeland officials for gathering information and communicating and working with the police to get information out to the public.

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AWARD

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B state championship game, when his 3-pointer in the final seconds of overtime gave Benton Harbor a 65-64 victory over Grand Rapids Catholic Central, its first state title since 1964-65.

His dominance was hardly restricted to that season, however. Johnson will soon be named all-state for a fourth straight time, and Benton Harbor is 91-9 over his four seasons at the school. As a freshman he led the Tigers to the state semifinals, and Benton Harbor was ranked No. 1 in Division 2 when the Michigan High School Athletic Association suspended this season's tournament due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sterling saw a potential Mr. Basketball long before Johnson took the court for the Tigers.

"I would say when he was in fourth grade," Sterling said. "He played Jump Start basketball and he always dominated, every time and he played up (against older players). I knew we had to make sure he would stay with us and be a student at Benton Harbor High School.

"He led us to the final four his freshman year, sophomore year he won the state championship for us. If we get a chance to resume this year, I think he'll win another state championship for us," Sterling added, acknowledging that the hope of finishing the season looks "bleak" after Monday's news of a statewide stay-at-home order.

Johnson's next stop on his journey will be Butler University in Indianapolis, where he'll play college basketball next season.

"Butler felt like home to me," Johnson said. "It was a great fit for my family and myself. I just see myself doing good things there."

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BUSINESSES

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remains open, but is only serving five customers at a time. They are asked to stand six feet apart while inside the store.

Silver Beach Pizza began offering curbside pick-up below the bluff and has seen a line of cars on a daily basis.

David Costas, general manager at the St. Joseph pizzeria, said they introduced the makeshift drive-thru last Monday. Employees are stationed outside with headsets and ring up a person's order once they arrive. They've also instituted paying over the phone to reduce in-person contact.

Costas said the line got out of control Friday when Silver Beach Pizza was offering a special. But he said they've been working out the kinks since introducing the drive-thru last week.

"The amount of interest overwhelmed our capabilities," Costas said in reference to Friday night. "It's been quite the adjustment, but the community has been awesome for us. We're just trying to abide by all the recommendations of the health care professionals and keep everyone's jobs."

Not all restaurants are staying open in the midst of the state's executive order.

Full Circle Cafe and Espresso Bar in Stevensville will shutter its doors until mid-April.

Jayme Bendoski, co-owner of Full Circle Cafe, said they plan to take a break in the hopes of flattening the curve.

"It's a hard decision. I think everyone has been waiting for something like this," Bendoski said. "If we're open, we're still egging people on to come out. Even if we're doing curbside service, there is still a way to pass along germs. This is the right thing to do."

Bendoski said she and her husband contemplated closing last week when restaurants and bars were first restricted from in-house service.

"It gets to the point where you shouldn't be encouraging people to come buy your food," she said. "It's the same thing with the safety of our employees. We want everyone to listen to what they're being told. We're a small business, so taking a break wasn't in our plans for 2020. But lost income does not even come close to the health and safety of the people we love."

Lazy Ballerina Winery is closing its Bridgman and St. Joseph locations as well.

Melanie Owen, co-owner of the winery, said they've been limited in sales since last week. However, there is a silver lining.

"As far as we know, we are still able to do shipping online,"Owen said. "We're playing it day-by-day until we know something more."

'We're in the light green'

Whispers of the newest executive order began to surface late last week.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the state's most powerful business lobby, wrote Whitmer a letter Friday opposing such a move and issued a news release Saturday. The Michigan Chamber argued that too broad of an order could unnecessarily damage the economy.

Cornerstone Alliance President Rob Cleveland said his office began to hear chatter about the order early Monday morning. The announcement came at 11 a.m. – 13 hours before it would take effect.

"We didn't have a lot of time to prepare. However, we've been working with our counterparts around the state to see what others are doing," Cleveland said. "We're certainly supportive of what the state and federal government is doing. It's all changing so quickly."

The economic development agency has taken precautions to assist businesses, which included assembling a task force on March 13.

Cleveland said Cornerstone is focused on helping businesses understand whether they fall under that critical or essential category. As part of their effort, Cornerstone officials have been directing business owners to the federal government's website that showcases their guidelines.

If there are any further questions, Cleveland said they've been recommending attorneys for owners to contact.

"We are certainly not capable of providing any legal guidance as to whether or not they are essential or critical," Cleveland said. "The fact is there were not a lot of businesses last week that needed assistance right away. We anticipate that number to grow this week and the following weeks. We've encouraged businesses to work with their lenders."

A number of businesses have reached out to Cornerstone Alliance, but Cleveland said Southwest Michigan has not reached the apex of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're in the light green," Cleveland said. "The retail sector is going to be hit pretty hard over the next few weeks. But we have programs available and encourage those folks to go to our website and fill out a survey. We'll be there to walk them through the programs."

If a company meets the definition of essential services or critical lifeline, owners and employees are recommended to document that designation with an official letter of the company's letterhead.

Businesses must determine which employees are necessary to conduct minimum basic operations, and those that remain operating must adopt social distancing and other mitigation factors.

In a news release Monday, Whitmer said businesses should not play "fast and loose" with the rules being handed down.

Businesses that abuse their designation authority will be subject to sanctions by the state.

Cynthia LaGrow, chief financial officer with Maximum Mold, said they plan to stay open during the next three weeks.

While several manufacturers are reviewing their services, LaGrow said Maximum Mold is covered as an essential service due to its work in the food, medical and agriculture industry.

"We've already been contacted by a couple of extremely large manufacturers to work with them on prototype devices with ventilators," she said.

The Benton Harbor manufacturer produces several products that are used for hospital beds and medical devices.

While Maximum Mold will remain open, company officials are asking employees who are showing symptoms of the coronavirus to stay home.

"I've never seen this much panic and uncertainty before. We're going to get through this just as America always does," LaGrow said. "The hardships are going to be long-lasting."

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